AMERICAN FARMER.

RURAL ECONOMY, INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS, PRICES CURRENT.

"O fortunatos nimium sua si bona norint
"Agricolas." . . . VIRG.

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AGRICULTURAL.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

Pharsalia, 21st Sept. 1819.

S. SKINNER, Esq.

Dear Sir,—It gave me great pleasure to observe in the 15th number of the "American Farmer," some notice of a subject which has deeply interested my wishes, and occupied a great deal of my labour for the last four years;—I allude to the important operations of marsh embankment. Seven years ago, I relinquished the laborious duties of a harassing profession, which I pursued on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, and purchased on the Atlantic side of our peninsula, an extensive farm, which abounded in marsh esteemed of a good quality for spring grazing. Although I had always felt a particular predilection for the independent occupations of husbandry, which was not repressed even by the daily opportunity of witnessing the laborious drudgery with which it is pursued upon the rugged soil of the interior of Pennsylvania, my native state, I bestowed but little attention to the practicability of reclaiming our low grounds until within the last five years. My first essay was then attempted, rather from motives of health and comfort, than from any expectation of improving the quality, or increasing the quantity of my grass lands.

Two small pieces of low, detached marsh, nearly surrounded by high ground, containing perhaps, five acres, both of which were mud flats, entirely naked of grass, unless during an occasional very dry summer, and lying near the site of the dwelling-house, presented offensive objects to the eye, evidently contaminated the atmosphere by the miasmata that were exhaled from their surface, and, what was almost equally distressing, afforded a nidus for the generation of myriads of pestilent musquitoes every summer. To drain and embank these pieces of marsh became early an object of considerable interest. After imperfectly completing this rude attempt, for I was ignorant of the most eligible process of effectually accomplishing it, I was surprised and delighted to observe that a fine growth of grass had clothed the whole surface with a beautiful verdure, before the close of the season in which the work was finished. As the soil was purely alluvial, I entertained no doubt of its great fertility; but I was astonished to see it so soon covered with a grass which grew only on rich, and low grounds. The innumerable small springs which emptied themselves into them from the adjoining high grounds, had preserved them in nearly a fresh state.

From this limited success, my attention was attracted to more extensive enterprise, and during the two succeeding summers I embanked about 120 acres of marsh. Having no experienced labourer at command, and absurdly depending upon the weight of the incumbent mud, to compress my mounds into a compact body which would be impervious to water, I constructed my banks in a careless and rough manner; pressing the work with too much ardour, and anxious only to heap the mass to a sufficient elevation to oppose our high tides. The consequence was, what any man of common sense ought to have anticipated, the dikes proved so leaky as to admit salt water enough to cover the surface of my low marsh during high tides, and became sources of perpetual embarrassment and expense. Finding them ineffectual, I resolved to make a more patient and judicious effort; and in June last I commenced another bank, including all the marsh before embanked, and finished upwards of 2000 yards by the last of August, which completely answers my highest expectations. To-day I had a fine opportunity of testing the tightness of my banks;—the salt water rose upwards of two feet upon their outside, and scarcely a gallon passed through them.

I trouble you with this familiar narrative of my experiments, that you may better comprehend my intention, in requesting your particular notice of the subjects of inquiry which I shall take the liberty of proposing below. The enterprise of our shore is much excited at this moment, upon agricultural improvement generally; and many of our best farmers, upon both sides of the peninsula, feel themselves forcibly attracted to the reclamation of their marshes. In this state of the public feeling, it is important that sound and useful information should be extensively diffused, and the subject minutely explained, in order to prevent that discouragement and dangerous langour, which would be occasioned by a few unskilful and abortive attempts. If I may be permitted to form a judgment of the laudable interest you feel in the progressive improvement of our country, in the arts of correct husbandry from the honourable testimony of your late labours, now before me; I am sure you will cheerfully devote a portion of your time and talents repeatedly to solicit the communications of detailed plans, and information from those who are experienced in the operations of embanking marsh lands.

Delaware and Pennsylvania, on their Atlantic sides, contain intelligent men upon this subject, whose remarks would enrich the columns of your useful paper, and confer an essential obligation upon many of their countrymen. It is a subject of great astonishment to me, that so distinguished an agriculturist as Judge Peters, should have neglected this important source of a farmer's wealth: especially as his superior talents, and the enchanting style of his writings, are so well calculated to render every thing he obligingly communicates to the public particularly interesting. The scarcity of winter forage is no where so terribly felt, and so loudly complained of, as in the maritime parts of your state, and those south of Maryland; and yet few situations are capable of being more abundantly supplied with this valuable article, were common exertions made to obtain it.

The deplorable consequences of this evil are continually presenting themselves in the scanty crops of their impoverished farms, and in the mortifying spectacle of poor and miserable cattle, and even horses,—which disgraces our farm-yards, our fields, and our humanity, during every successive spring; and yet with mysterious infatuation, we fold our arms in sluggish inactivity, and permit the next recurrence of that genial season, to bring with it the same wants, and the same distresses. The present, if I am not deceived is a propitious period to spread widely among us a remedy, and an effectual one too, for these grievances. The adoption of some measures that would increase our meadow grounds, forms the greatest desideratum in our system of farming. Without long forage in greater abundance, as well as a better supply of exclusive summer pasture, we will in vain look for any material resuscitation of our worn-out lands. I am not attempting to add any excitement to your ardour upon this subject; I do not think you require it: the description, you know sir, is but too faithful, and the occasion but too common also, not to have repeatedly moved your observation and your regret.

22d. Sept. I had progressed thus far yesterday, in the recess from field exercise, which a storm afforded. To-day presents a gloomy contrast. What a dependent and short-sighted creature is man! This is an exclamation in the mouth of every reflecting

man, and almost of every unreflecting man too, upon the sudden and unexpected incursion of disappointments. At this moment I am but too well justified in its use. Yesterday my expectations were triumphant—my lately constructed banks, appeared a tight and perfect barrier to the highest tide I had witnessed since my settlement upon the eastern shore of Virginia, a period of sixteen years. To-day, by a continuance of the most tremendous north east tempest I ever saw, my banks are completely covered with water, from 12 to 18 inches over their summits; the marsh within, besides many acres of my best re claimed grounds, well set in timothy and clover, inundated upwards of two feet with salt water; and the whole threatened with total ruin. I am greatly discouraged, it is true, and I have reason. The florid promises of a summer's toil are blasted in a moment, but I will not abandon an enterprise so valuable and praiseworthy. I could boast neither of patience, nor fortitude until the slow, and sometimes uncertain operations of husbandry improved both. I subscribe heartily to the truth of Tully's remark, "agricultura proxima sapientiæ;" such at least has been my experience of its moral influence. I will, therefore, prosecute my inquiries in the occasional intervals of reflection, that I may snatch from the distressing scene of desolation that surrounds me.

First.—Have reclaimed marshes succeeded in the production of artificial grasses, where not more than 20 or 24 inches of fall could be commanded at any time; and where during the prevalence of particular winds which maintain an unusual and protracted elevation of the tides, not more than half that fall can be had for several days in succession.

2nd. Have reclaimed marshes been made valuable for grass, whose surface consists almost entirely of a mass of fibrous roots to the depth of 8 or 9 inches; and if so, was the turf paired off and burnt, or was it permitted to undergo a gradual decomposition, after the natural grass was destroyed?

3d. In grounds thus covered with turf, has the plough been used to prepare them for the reception of grass seeds; or has it been found sufficient to tear the surface with harrows, and then to sow the seed.

4th. May it not be received as a tolerably correct standard, by which to ascertain the value of marsh soil, that the nearer it approaches to a pure, blue mould, or, in other words, the shallower the superficial stratum of roots, the better it is?

5th. In reclaimed marshes, whose situation does not admit of any permanent current of fresh water through their ditches, and where, of course, during periods of drought similar to that of the late summer, the salt water which passes through the sluices, occupies the bottom of their ditches in an undiluted state, will grasses succeed?

6th. Are there any sluices or trunks, with valves opening towards the salt water, so tight as not to admit some salt water?

7th. What is the best plan of their construction?

8th. Has it been observed, that when high tides prevail several days in a dry time, and when the excavations, so common upon the surface of many marshes, are laid dry by the evaporation of their water, that an oozing of salt water takes place through the deep fissures made by the sun in the mud of their bottoms, so as sometimes to cover them 2 or 3 inches deep, in the lowest parts?

9th. Does not the mud upon the outside of all banks receive deep fissures, whilst their moisture is evaporating by the heat of a summer's sun?

10th. Is it common or necessary to fill up these cracks with additional soft mud plastered over them, or are they permitted to fill up by the gradual pulverization of the mud on the surface by a winter's frost?

11th. What length of time will be required, where the banks and sluices are completely tight, to freshen and prepare very salt marsh, for grass seeds?

12th. Will this process be accelerated by loosening the surface with a plough; and has this operation been tried?

13th. At what distance apart are the interior draining ditches usually opened in marshes not boggy, or even soft upon their surface: and what are the common dimensions of such ditches, esteemed effectual, and sufficient for the purpose they were intended?

14th. Are not small superficial drains of an angular shape, like the ditches, one foot wide and 7 or 8 inches deep, very serviceable in grass lands made upon marshes?

15th. In what manner do the most approved bank-builders, dispose of their superficial soils in embanking a marsh, whose surface is composed of turf?

16th. Is it necessary in very solid marsh, to allow more than 4 or 5 feet, from the edge of the ditch to the commencement of the base of the bank, which is not required, from its situation, to have more than 8 feet base and 4 feet elevation; especially when the water upon the outside is perfectly salt, and no muskrats apprehended?

17th. Is it not invariably improper to open two ditches, one on each side of, or near to, the bank? Or, in other words, is it not better to obtain the mud, with which the bank is constructed, from a single exterior ditch?

18th. Do the artificial grasses in reclaimed marshes upon the sea-board, invariably perish when inundated accidentally for 6 or 8 hours by salt water, very little diluted, and where little or no rain has fallen to saturate the earth with fresh water, immediately before such casualty?

19th. Are not grasses considered essentially the growth of fresh, unsalted ground, much more capable of sustaining life and vigour after such inundations of salt water, than is generally imagined, especially in old meadows having a condensed growth of timothy?

20th. Is there any one of the artificial grasses, endowed in a superior manner, with the power of resisting the injurious effects of salt water

21st. Is it not much more difficult and hazardous, for these reasons, to attempt the reclamation of marshes situated immediately contiguous to the water of the ocean: and do not breaches frequently occur in banks from violent tempests, or from the perforations of muskrats?

22d. Is not salt water frequently admitted through the valves of the sluices, which are prevented from closing by extraneous bodies being occasionally lodged in them?

23. What precautions are found most effectual to prevent these accidents?

24th. What meadows have been inundated by the late violent tempest? Were their banks broken down, or did the water overflow, without destroying them?

I would add some other queries upon which information would be desirable; but I have already committed an unpardonable trespass upon your patience. Please make an effort to bear with this, as well as the privilege I have assumed of, perhaps too familiarly, communicating some incidents most necessarily required by the subject. Oblige me by publishing the whole, or a part of the above queries, after making such alterations and amendments, as your judgment may point out. I am, with great respect.

Your friend and obed't servant,

T. H.

P. S. 23d. Sept. The wind shifted about sun-set yesterday evening to east, and afterwards to south east, with a violence that amounted to a hurricane. Thousands of our best trees are blown down, and vast quantities of fence totally lost. The tide arose, during the night of the 22d, to the unexampled height of 14 feet upon our marshes. The miserable inhabitants of our islands, are reduced to a state of the most wretched indigence and destitution, by the destruction of their corn, cattle, sheep, and fences. Most of our coasting vessels are ashore.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

DOMESTIC INDUSTRY No. 6.

Baltimore, October 23, 1819.

MR. SKINNER.

That our conduct, as rational beings, should be adapted to the circumstances in which we are placed, is a truth too obvious to

require any proof; yet we are such beings of habit, that we seldom conform to new circumstances, till compelled by necessity. For a long period after the first settling of this country, agriculture was the primary object of labour; it being indispensibly necessary for the support of the inhabitants; and for many years after, the produce of the soil had become more than sufficient for the home consumption; foreign markets afforded a better return for the products of agricultural labour than for that of any other. So long as this state of things lasted, it was the duty of the United States to encourage husbandry beyond all other arts. A great change, however has now taken place. The vast extent of cultivated lands; the fertility of the Western soil and the progressive improvements in agriculture, have created a produce far beyond the domestic consumption: and as other countries are progressing in like manner, we cannot expect a profitable foreign market, except when unfavourable seasons, or a state of war may produce a temporary scarcity in some of them. Such circumstances have happened, and no doubt, will again; but surely they never should be made the basis of any permanent calculation. The labouring class of our population is therefore manifestly too great to be advantageously employed in agriculture alone. It must of course either continue to labour under an increasing disadvantage;—a part of it go idle; or get to some other employment. The first would augment our present evils: the second would be still more intolerable; but the third would have a direct tendency to remove our present embarrassments. We have seen what thousands, and hundreds of thousand, are supported in other countries by working up our raw materials; and also what millions of dollars are drained annually out of the United States to pay them;—to enrich their masters, and support their government.

Our circumstances having thus changed, our conduct should change also; and the mode in which that change should take place, was never more obvious to any nation, nor more easily effected. But, as has been observed, we are beings of habit; we frequently acknowledge our errors, at the very time when, from custom, we are committing them. Be it so;—*necessity* will correct what *reason* cannot, and the correction will be severe in proportion to our obstinacy. I know not whether our merchants are yet convinced that carrying away the wealth of their own country, is a trade that cannot last for ever; or whether they have found by their Legers, that raw materials will not balance the account of manufactured ones: but a series of voyages, on which the loss is from ten to thirty-three per cent., and importations which sell twenty-five per cent. below cost, will teach them a lesson on this subject. I hope however, that our agricultural interest; that basis on which the independence, the prosperity, and the real wealth of every nation must depend, is already sensible that a different system of domestic economy must be adopted.

Yours, COGITATIVUS.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

Flintshire, Carolina County, Va.

MR. SKINNER,

SIR;—I am really rejoiced to see the great interest taken by the farmers, in my part of the country, in your paper, and also to learn from the many valuable essays, which it brings to us from various quarters of the Union, that the people of our country have at length began assiduously and earnestly to cultivate the most useful of all sciences, that of agriculture

Husbandry has been every where exceedingly tardy in its progress toward perfection; although it seems to have been the first, and most alluring of the arts, by which man has been attracted from the savage into civilized life. The blessings, the healthful pleasures, and the proud independence of the farmer, have been the themes of praise, as well by poets as by philosophers in all ages; yet, it is singular, that the art of husbandry, as a science, should have lagged so long behind all others, and should be even at this day, little advanced from what it was, "when the rural Maro sung" of the cares and the delights of the agriculturist

The slow progress made in improving the art of tilling the earth, I have thought, has been owing to two causes. First to the impatient headlong avarice of our nature. This, one of our propensities, has been rather cherished than checked among our fellow citizens, by the peculiar situation of our country, since the final settlement of its independence, up to the present period. For some years past, the minds of the people have been diverted from the science of agriculture, by the political circumstances of our times The vast channels of foreign commerce, which have so profitably invited our citizens abroad, are now very much narrowed or entirely closed. Political events, which it is needless to consider, and against the discussion of which your paper has been properly shut, have given to the winds the whole tribe of fantastical schemes, by which speculators realized thousands by a lucky draft, or hundreds of thousands by a fortunate voyage.

The second cause of the slow progress of the science, has seemed to me to arise chiefly out of its own nature. The husbandman must wait upon, and observe the seasons. His life is limited to a span, while the diversities of soil, and the annual changes of climate and vegetation, are infinite. The principles of vegetation are covered with a thick veil; and the effects, which can be noted only from year to year, afford but obscure indications of the nature and operations of those principles. It is impossible for a single individual to collect within the compass of his few years of observation, many or very accurate and profitable agricultural experiments: because for each one he must wait until "nature rolls round the seasons of the changeful year." Hence the great delay in making agricultural experiments.

To surmount this procrastination as far as practicable, it is necessary that cultivators should *confederate*, and *make common cause* in searching out the ways of Nature in her government of the vegetable kingdom; that they should adopt some *clear and exact* mode of communicating to each other the result of the few accurate experiments which each one shall be enabled to make.

In chemistry, which is the kindred and analogous science to agriculture, philosophers have found it essentially necessary to adopt uniform terms and phrases; which convey the same ideas and are alike intelligible every where. In their analysis of air, vapour, water, &c. they have adopted definite terms, which convey to every one, in the most perspicuous manner, the idea of the objects spoken of, so far as their natures have been ascertained. And in treating of the external structures and appearances of minerals they have carefully explained, in the outset, what they understand by certain specified colours densities, and the like, by references to some universally common natural objects.

Thus they define colours, "*ash gray*, the colour of well burnt wood ashes; *lead gray*, as gray with a little blue and metallic lustre," &c. &c. Without this apparently tedious and unnecessary nicety, in the explanation of experiments, and the description of objects, it would have been impossible for the chemist of France to have been of any service to the chemist of England, or for the two to have united in promoting the progress of the science.

The unimproved state of agriculture, after so much labour has been expended on it, and so many volumes have been written on the subject, may be attributed in a great degree to the want of perspicuity, and accuracy in describing experiments, so as to enable other agriculturists, in other situations and circumstances, to test their utility by repeating them, or to profit by the useful principles which they suggest or develope. Every one who has read a treatise on Husbandry, or attempted to follow any of the courses they recommend, must have observed how exceedingly slovenly and unexact the subject is treated, and have experienced many failures in pursuing, as he thought the precise line marked out, owing to causes which he could not comprehend, but which would have been perfectly clear, had the experiments attempted to be followed have been more *minutely and exactly described*

I would propose, therefore, that each Farmer should make an exact report, for publication, to the Agricultural Society of which he is a member, or to the American Farmer, or to some other paper having a general circulation, in the following form, or in any other manner which may be considered more *exact and perspicuous.*

[FORM OF A REPORT.]

No. 1. *The size and general character of the Farm from which the Report is made.*

It contains two thousand acres, situated in the upper end of Caroline County, and is bounded on one side by the river Rappahannock. Four hundred acres of the tract are in wood, and the growth is chiefly red oak and hickory, some pine, with an under growth, in the low places, of huckleberry, and, on the higher grounds, dogwood and hickory saplings; red cedar grows in abundance wherever it is suffered to spring up and remain. The whole tract, except the woodland, is enclosed by wattling, worm and straight rail fencing, such as is common in the neighbourhood. The arable land is divided into three shifts or fields, and four lots of about ten acres each. The arable land next the river lies gently waving or nearly level. The soil is silicious, that is, composed of much flint sand, with a mixture of dark mould and red clay, which gives it a mahogany colour when moist or wet On digging graves or post holes, it has been observed, that the soil is of the same composition for four or five feet deep. It is not plashy or retentive of water on the surface, either in winter or summer; yet it sustains its crops during drought as well or better than argillaceous, or clayey soils in the vicinity, which is thought to be owing to its loose, porous texture, that permits the previously absorbed moisture to be attracted to the surface by the heat of the sun.

No. 2 *An account of a crop of wheat raised in the year* 1819, (1) *half a mile from the shore of the Rappahannock river, in the upper end of Caroline County, Virginia.*

Dr.	$	Cr	$
(1) To rent of 10 acres	00		
(3) To fallowing	00	00 bush. of clean wheat	
(4) To 10 bushels seed wheat . . .	00	at $00 per bush.	00
		00 bush. tailings	00

Dr.	$	By	$
(5) To ploughing for sowing	00	00 ox cart loads of chaff	00
harrowing	00	00 do. do. straw	00
(6) cutting & gathering	00	Gross product	$00
(7) cleaning	00	Expense	00
(8) delivering or sending to market	00	Neat profit	$00
Total expense	00		

NOTES.

(1) This crop was sown on the day of and cut on the day of . During that time there fell inches of rain,* and inches of snow, with which the ground was covered days. The average heat of April was degrees of Farenheit;† of May degrees, and of June and July degrees. There were no very remarkable or great transitions from heat to cold, or the reverse, from April until harvest: nor were there any heavy driving rains, or strong blasts of wind in that time, which might have caused the wheat to fall and lodge.

(2) The soil of this ten acres is silicious, or sandy, &c. as described in No. 1.

(3) This fallowing was made on the day of . The soil was turned up by a strong barshare, which cut about inches deep.—From the time the fallowing was done, until the seed was committed to the earth, there fell inches of rain.

(4) This seed was of the first quality eastern shore of Maryland white wheat, weighing 62 lbs. to the bushel; a sample of which was preserved and compared with the product, which had fallen off very much in appearance, and in reality, for it weighed only 57 lbs. to the bushel.

(5) This ploughing was made by a common barshare, and turned up the soil well pulverised, and free of lumps, clods, roots, and weeds.

(6) The crop was cut by a scythe and cradle, and was gathered and carried at once under cover, without being shocked up in the field.

(7) The cleaning was performed by a machine invented in Orange county, Virginia, and generally used, and much approved of, in that and many of the neighbouring counties. Its operation is to separate the wheat and chaff from the straw completely and effectually, and with great ease and rapidity. The wheat is then separated from the chaff and cleaned by the common fan.

(8) The crop was delivered to the purchaser at a landing on the river, half a mile from the barn.

No. 3. An account of a crop of clover raised in the year 1819, one mile from the river Rappahannock, in the upper end of Caroline county Virginia.

* Rain gauge for this purpose, any tin or metal vessel, the sides of which are exactly perpendicular and the bottom flat, may be used—a wooden vessel might absorb a considerable portion while the rain is falling—Such a vessel placed in the open yard or field, clear from any drippings of the trees or house and measured immediately after each rain is over; will give the quantity or number of inches of rain, that falls in any given time.

† The cost of a common Farenheit Thermometer is 8 dollars to 12 dollars—it should be fixed steadily, in a dry shaded place, not exposed to strong cuurents of air or to artificial heat.

[A similar account may be made of a grass crop to the foregoing one of wheat, with this difference, that as the putting of it down will cost as much or more, in some cases, than other crops, and but very little to keep it up for several years; therefore the total cost of the labour bestowed on grass lands, for the number of years it will continue to produce good crops without breaking up the soil, should be summed up, and the annual average only charged to each year; as for example, suppose the whole cost of labour bestowed on a clover lot, including the preparation for sowing, for the support of the grass for four years to amount to forty dollars, the crop of each year should be charged with no more than ten dollars for cultivation: in other respects, the account and notes may be thrown into the preceding form.]

To make an exact estimate of the clear income derived from a tract of land, the farmer must draw up an account, in addition to those of each of his crops made out according to the foregoing forms in which all debits and credits, of rent, &c. not included in those accounts should be entered; and in which one third of the stock reared may be credited, or such other proportion of stock as is equal to that portion of support, which the stock derives from the pasture and uncultivated lands, thus:

No. 4 An account of the profits of a farm, the size and general character of which is as described in form No. 1. three hundred acres of which were in cultivation or produced a crop in the year 1819.

Dr.	$	Cr.	$
Rent of 1700 acres	00	Wheat crop	00
Fencing	00	Corn crop	00
Repairing houses	00	Grass crop	00
Cleaning ditches and mending roads	00	Stock	00
Incidental charges	00	Garden Stuffs	00
		Gross amount	00
Total expense	$ 00	Expense	00
		Clear income	$ 00

According to these forms, or such others as may be deemed more perspicuous, a farmer may make a report of any given portion of his wheat, corn, or other crop, taken from one, two or more acres, as an example of his system of husbandry, or of the experiments he has made, or he may thus make a report of his whole crop, provided the whole has been carefully observed and measured.

The form of an account seems to be best calculated to give, at a single glance, a clear view of the profits to be derived from the soil and cultivation described. And in the form of notes to such an account every particular should be as carefully, and as distinctly set down and explained as possible. The year when, and the place where, the crop grew should be noted with as exact an account of the weather, as can be had, from the time the seed was committed to the earth until the crop was gathered; that the effects of climate and season may be judged of. An exact description of the nature of the soil on which the experiment was made, should be carefully noted; because we know, that almost all vegetable operations are controlled by the united effects of soil and climate. As the object of cultivation is to aid the beneficial effects of soil and climate, the quantity and nature of the manure spread upon the land, should be noted; and also the ploughings, &c. both as to time and manner. The nature of the seed, as well with relation to its own quality as compared to its product should be noted: so that we may be informed whether it has improved or deteriorated, and set upon inquiring into the causes. The manner of cutting, gathering, and cleaning, should also be mentioned, that others may judge whether any thing has been lost, or whether the cheapest and best methods have been used. In making the charges of rent, and the price of labour expended in ploughing, &c. the rent should be estimated at what is actually paid, or at what might be deemed fair and reasonable in the neighbourhood for such land; and the cost of cultivation should, in like manner be set down at the prices actually paid, or, if done by the farmer's own slaves, at the price for which hirelings could be had in the neighbourhood to do the work, taking care to include in the estimate, man, team, and implements. The cost of delivering the crop; and the distance which the cultivator is obliged to send it to market, should be noticed; that an opinion may be formed of the relative advantages of the situation of arable land.

In crediting the products, the farmer should not only bring into the account, the clear merchandiseable portion of the crop, but every portion of it; as well that which is fit for provender for stock, as that which can be applied to no other use than manure. The farmer should accustom himself to set a value upon every portion of the product of the soil, as a part of the return for the labour, which he has bestowed on it. Nothing is more common than to let the chaff of the small grain blow away, and to leave the corn stalks in the field to waste, instead of converting them into manure, the only purpose for which they are fit. But the provident farmer will recollect, that a load of chaff or stalks will make him a load of manure, which when spread on the land, will be equal to two dollars worth of Plaster of Paris, and that if he neglects to make such use of it, he does as clearly lose two dollars, as if he had lost that value of clean grain.

As there may be some difficulty with Farmers in measuring their grounds and fields, which they have set a part as portions of their cultivation to be reported of, I will take the liberty of suggesting an easy and exact method of measuring grounds, without the help of a surveyor's instruments, which are only necessary when the contents of a very irregular shaped plat of land is required to be ascertained. Let a pair of compasses be made, and braced so as to represent the letter A, the top angle of which, when standing upright, to be about breast high, and the legs to stride exactly six feet.—With such an instrument, made so light as to be twirled round with ease, from foot to foot, and the stride counted as the measurer walks along, any square piece of ground may be measured as accurately as by a chain and compass, by thus striding off the two sides with these wooden compasses, and multiplying the one side by the other, and then dividing by the number of square yards in an acre.*

I have been induced to offer these suggestions to my brethren of the clod, in the hope that they might thus be invited to the adoption of accuracy, perspicuity, and method, the utility of which are so very obvious, and which are so indespensably necessary for the further and sure improvement of us all. F. T.

* The length of two sides of a lot of ground being ascertained, to find the contents of the lot multiply one side by the other the result is the contents in square feet or yards. Thus a lot of ground which measures one hundred yards, or fifty strides of this compass one way, and two hundred yards or one hundred strides of this compass the other way, contains 20,000 square, yards—This is the result of 200 multiplied by 100—This method may be used to ascertain the contents of any sized lot, the sides of which consist of lines at right angles. As some of our readers may have forgotten their land measure table, we here give it from old Dilworth, and hope they will pardon us for presuming them to have so soon forgotten an old acquaintance.

LAND MEASURE.

The denominations of this measure are, acre, rood, square perch, square yard and square foot.

9 square feet make	1 square yard
30¼ square yards make	1 square perch
40 square perches make	1 rood
4 roods	1 acre.

Agricultural Experiments,

Made on the Potowmac—upper end of Westmoreland county, Virginia, in 1792.

First. Planted 20 hills in Indian corn, at 6 feet square distance, in a piece of light sandy land, so poor as not probably to have exceeded a peck to a thousand. On this was put 10 bushels of unslacked shell lime. The first day of October gathered 36 ears, 3 nubbins, which shelled 1¾ quarts, 1 pint of corn, equal to 4 barrels, 30 quarts, and 1 pint to the thousand, or 25 bushels, 17 quarts, and 2 pints to the acre—Five bundles of blades, weighing 4 1-2 lb., and 3 bundles weighing 1 1-4 lb. stript from the top, which together equal 282 1-2 lb. to the thousand or as 844 1-2 per acre.

Second. Gathered the first day of October the corn from 20 hills, planted at 4 feet square distance, 2 stalks in each hill, in tobacco ground, from which a crop of flax had been taken the year before, 41 ears, 4 nubbins, produced 15 quarts and 1-2 pint of corn, equal to 4 barrels, 3 bushels, 24 quarts, and 1 pint per thousand, or 68 bushels, 18 quarts, and 1 1-2 pints per acre. Five bundles of blades, weighing 4 lb., and three bundles of top blades weighing 1 lb. 6 oz. together equal to 268 3-4 lbs. per thousand, or 775 3-4 lbs. per acre.

Third. Gathered first of October, the corn from 20 hills of common old field, adjoining the tobacco ground, and planted at four feet square distance, 2 stalks in each hill, 38 ears, 2 nubbins, produced 7 quarts 1 pint, equal to 2 barrels, 1 bushel, 23 quarts per thousand, or 33 bushels, 26 quarts, and one pint per acre. Two bundles of blades, weighing 2 1-4 lbs., and one bundle of top blades, weighing 10 1-2 oz., together equal to 145 lbs. 5 oz. per thousand, or 419 1-2 lbs. per acre

Fourth. Twenty hills planted as above, in the same ground and immediately adjoining the last mentioned, putting into each hill at planting one gallon of farm yard manure; produced 40 ears, 3 nubbins, and shelled 15 quarts of corn, equal to 4 barrels, 3 bushels, 14 quarts per thousand, or 67 bushels, 21 quarts per acre, and 4 bundles, weighing 4 lbs. 3 oz. of blades, and 2 bundles weighing 1 1-4 lbs., top blades, together equal to 271 lbs. 14 oz. per thousand, or 785 lbs. per acre.

Memorandum.—From the fourth experiment the corn is in safe preservation to be measured the first of March ensuing, thereby to determine the shrinkage.

The corn was dried previous to its being measured as above; and some of it ground at the mill two days afterwards, and the fodder in an arid state.

The tobacco ground corn failing in spots, in the month of June, during a drought, one gallon of rich swamp mud was chopped in, round each hill; after the first rain its effects were very obvious, and the corn which had shown so great a disparity and backwardness, yielded equal to the other, as in experiment *Second* above.

Memorandum.—The above-mentioned corn, viz. experiment *Fourth*, was measured the first of March, and the shrinkage found to be one third; there remaining 10 quarts, equal to 3 barrels, 1 bushel, 2 quarts per thousand, or 44 bushels, 2 pecks, and 5 quarts to the acre.

For the American Farmer.

On the Art of Making and Bottling Cider.

Elmwood, Oct. 25, 1819.

Mr. Skinner,—A glass of good cider now sparkling before me, brings to my mind your request, to be informed of the best method to bottle cider. I have had the satisfaction to furnish my table for 18 years with that article, without any material interruption, having some always of two years bottling on hand.

It would be needless to detail all the experiments I made to save my bottles; however, I will relate two that were very promising, which will show that nothing less than raising the proof of the cider will answer.

Experiment 1. I bottled cider of fine quality in February with the best of corks, and removed it to the cellar; after the bottles were filled, they were placed in tubs of warm water, and raised to full summer heat, and then corked.

Experiment 2. Considering that good corks would begin to stop the air in the neck of the bottle, before they were half driven in, and that a portion of air would be condensed, and therefore greatly endanger the bottles, when the temperature was increased, I procured perforated corks and after they were driven in, stopped the perforations, with pegs and sealed all over.

Neither of these probable experiments were effectual, every hot day was announced by an explosion in the cellar. Giving over every stratagem, that had not an alteration of the liquor in view, it occurred to me that wines did not burst their bottles, and that cider was only a low wine, and also recollecting that small beer was both the weakest and most violently fermentative of all common drinks, I resolved to raise the proof of my cider, by the addition of two tea-spoons of French Brandy to each bottle. Since which I have had no more explosions nor broken bottles, and the cider is improved by the addition. Plums or honey, so much used, must have the same effect, *i. e.* to raise the proof; for it is only necessary to add a large quantity of either to make cider into good wine, that will flash in the fire; my method is to get cider made late in October or in November, from Redstreaks, Catalins, or Maidenblush. In December I put half an ounce of Isinglass to each 30 gallons, and bottle it in February. If the isinglass is put in later, it will deposit some sediment in the bottles. It is to be dissolved by chipping it into fine pieces, and placing it in a covered mug with a quart of cider for ten hours or more, in a very warm ashes heat, about as much as we use to draw tea—a little scalding of the corks, at the moment they are to be used, will soften them, so that they will fit better and be more readily driven in.

But it would be needless to expect cider to be made good by bottling, it must be pure and well flavored whilst in the cask; and, therefore, the subject necessarily involves cider making, on which you have many excellent papers. From what I understand of the making of cider, it appears that the later the apples hang on the trees, the more powerful will be the cider; hence the cider of France and other temperate countries, is said to be more powerful than ours; our summer apples, therefore, would not make good cider for bottling, because of their quickly arriving at perfection.

The cleaning of the liquor from the pumice is the main thing, when good sound late apples are used. It appears that cider made from sweet apples is much more apt to abound with pumice, whilst the acid and ascerb retain their pumice in the press, hence some very bad eating apples make excellent cider. The attention to this subject, *i. e.* the defacation is all important, especially the first separation, for if the first is well timed and complete, the future fermentations will be moderate and the racking effectual. Blankets have been used with success to get off much of the pumice; they should be spread on the bottom of a flat basket, and that placed on the head of the cask. All strainers will require often washing out, and therefore two or three are necessary, all of which may be made from one stout blanket. But I am satisfied that a few hair sieves of different fineness, with the coarsest uppermost, placed under the run, would separate great quantities of pumice; they would also require shifting with a second set, and constant attendance to wash them out; the size of grain sifters would answer, after these the blanket strainer would render the cider so pure, that the fermentation would be gentle and easily managed for racking, so that the first racking and the isinglass would finish the fining.

Your's, SILVANUS.

P. S. Some persons are very much pleased to see cider rush out of the bottle like small beer, they think it strong; if they bottle it themselves they will find their mistake, and like me, be better pleased to see a kind of sparkling fervor, like the wine of Solomon, "that moveth itself aright."

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

SIR,

I have just observed in your paper of the 15th instant, a communication from a correspondent in Lexington, Va. upon the subject of fining and bottling cider. Stating therein, that "the best he ever met with, was some years ago at the Indian Queen, which he understood was bottled by a Mr. Hillen about 10 miles from that place." As no other person by the name of *Hillen* at that time, sold cider in the neighbourhood, I take it for granted that I am the person alluded to. But, sir, there must either have been a mistake, or misapprehension, as to the bottling. I never bottled any for market, but have frequently supplied Mr. George Benner of Baltimore, with cider by the quantity for boiling, and have no doubt but Mr Benner has occasionally furnished Mr. Evans, the then landlord at the Indian Queen tavern. Were I to attempt a word of advice to your correspondent on the subject of making cider, it would be to avoid all rotten fruit, leaves, &c. pick up his apples as early as possible of mornings, when cold, or, at least *cool*, and grind them so; when ground and expressed, strain it through a sifter into a large trough or cistern, let it stand about 2 or 3 hours until the fine sediment falls to the bottom, then rack it off into clean casks and let it stand and work until the foam begins to dry at the bung-hole; then fill the casks up with cider of the same quality, and stop them as light as he can with straw bungs, or, if wood bungs, they must have ventilators for fear of bursting. When they become perfectly dry at the bung-hole (if straw) drive a sharp plug into it to exclude the air; in November rack it off through flannel into clean casks again, and let it stand till spring for bottling.—I am not sufficiently acquainted with bottling to offer any advice as to the best mode.

Yours respectfully,

THOMAS HILLEN.

P. S. Sir, it seems that Farmers, as well as Doctors may differ in opinion.—I observed in one of your papers a few months ago, that one of your correspondents had written in commendation of ripplegrass, ribwert, or, (as I think he termed it) ribbed plantain. Should the gentleman's crop of this article fall short next year, and it were possible for one to transmit him all my share by mail, I would most cheerfully pay the postage. T. H.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

Rapid Culture.

Baltimore Oct. 15th, 1819.

Dear Sir—Having observed the notice taken of an extraordinary corn stalk of Mr. Townsend of Pen Yan, which was produced in the short space of ninety-two days. I take the liberty of stating, that on the fifth of June I planted about an acre of corn on a spot of ground considered very poor, and which had been but imperfectly broken up a few days before. In the first week of August I had the pleasure of eating some fine "roasting ears;" the produce of this corn being about sixty days from the time of planting, many of the stalks had at that time attained the height of eleven feet. This production in a season of unusual drought on land proverbially poor, and planted at the commencement of the hottest and dryest portion of the season, has far exceeded my most sanguine expectation, and has been doubly gratifying in being the result of an experiment made with my *fertilizing compost*. The mode of planting was by mixing with the manure half a peck of compost to each load, and then mixing an equal bulk of the earth of the field with the manure (that is load for load,) after it was hauled out. Two shovels full of this mixture was thrown into the furrow for each hill, the corn dropped upon it, and covered in the usual way. The part of the field which I planted with manure alone, was deficient in size, and one row (about 100 hills) without either manure or compost, did not produce a single perfect ear, and the diminutive size of the stalks was a kind of burlesque on cultivated Indian corn. Three kinds of seed were used, viz. the white gourd seed of the Eastern shore, the large yellow corn of the uplands, and the common yellow corn of this county; against the former a prejudice exists in Baltimore county, and I was assured by some old

farmers, that with my late planting and poor land, I would not get an ear of it, notwithstanding it is as forward and more perfect, than the Baltimore corn, which I am inclined to think has been brought down to a *dwarf* by poor land, and poor cultivation; it is consequently premature, and imperfect in its formation; but it also escapes making a good crop. The frost is less to be feared than the use of poor seed. I have now growing a small square of Canadian corn, which was treated in the same way, and planted about the 2d of August, (an experiment for the second crop in one season,) the tips of some of the blossoms appeared in the beginning of September, since which I have not seen it, and circumstances have occurred to prevent me from pursuing that course of agrigricultural experiments, which I had contemplated. I have, therefore only the satisfaction of having produced the means of increasing the product and value of the soil, and must leave it for others to use them, with the hope that this communication may furnish some light on the culture of the single article of Indian corn.

A. B. MARTIN.

Baltimore October 30, 1819.

Mr. Skinner—I take the liberty of sending a few ears of the corn raised on the ground alluded to in my communication of last week. I send you one or two ears in the husk, in order to remark to you the circumstance of the corn growing entirely through the husk, and exposing the points of the ears to the weather and ravages of insects. I account for this, by the husk being formed at a very dry period, the corn afterwards received the benefit of a rain, which filled the grain so rapidly as to push it beyond the cover of the husk. I should by no means consider this corn remarkable unless connected with the circumstances of planting in June, dry season, poor land, &c. as before stated to you.

A. B. MARTIN.

Two distinct crops of water-melons were produced from the same vines, in a garden at Greenwich, Connecticut, this season. The second crop set about the time the first was gathered.

☞ The machine [*see below*] for gathering the heads of clover, with a view to the collection of seed, is taken from a publication in Pennsylvania, where that matter is well understood; nevertheless we doubt its efficacy, as we apprehend the teeth of the comb would be perpetually choaking, unless there be some method, which we do not perceive, of cleaning it as the heads accumulate.—*Ed. Am. Farmer.*

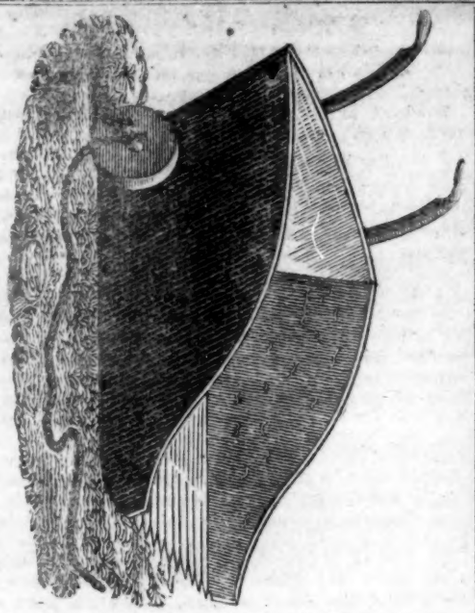
To the Philadelphia Society for promoting Agriculture.

Having recently seen an implement successfully employed in gathering heads of clover from which to procure seed, I could wish that the description and drawing, herewith transmitted, might be a mean of introducing it to general use, among our agricultural fellow citizens.

With a machine of this kind, a man and horse, can in one day collect the heads of clover from five acres of land; an economy of more than half the time necessary to obtain the crop, in the ordinary method; and in addition to that advantage, a field thus reaped, has left upon it the stem and leaves of the plant affording good pasture. Respectfully,

ROBERTS VAUX.

Burwood Lodge, 9th mo. 3, 1819.



Axle, 3 by 4 inches, 4 feet 10 inches long, to accommodate two wheels of 6 inches diameter, upon which secure a comb made as follows: bottom, of inch oak, 3 feet 3 inches broad, 1 foot 9 inches deep in which saw 43 teeth 9 inches in length, flat in the top, tapered at the ends, and turned up below, resembling the fingers of a cradle. Back of the comb resting on the axle, 1 foot 6 inches high, supported by two handles similar to those of a plough; sides sloping towards the front and to pass 3 inches below the teeth, and to be curved like a sled runner. To be drawn by a horse attached with chains or ropes which are secured at the ends of the axle.

P. S. Where, or by whom, the above described machine was contrived, I have not learned; the inventor, whoever he be, has conferred a benefit upon husbandmen, and is entitled to their acknowledgements, especially those who farm on a small scale, and to whom pasture is important.

Extracts from a Compendious Dictionary of the Veterinary Art.

[Continued from No. 31, p. 246.]

Broken Wind A disease to which horses are very liable, and generally produced by bad management either with regard to exercise or diet. As to the cause of broken wind, there have been various opinions: Gibson and Bartlett thought it was often brought on "by injudicious or hasty feeding young horses for sale, by which the growth of the lungs and all the contents within the chest are so increased, that the cavity of the chest is not capacious enough for them to expand themselves in and perform their functions." Bracken says, "as the asthma in mankind, so a broken wind in horses is produced from thick mucilaginous juices in the windpipe and lungs." From the investigation of Mr. Coleman, it appeared that broken wind is caused by a rupture of some of the air cells of the lungs, in consequence of which the air gets into the cellular membrane. According to Mr Richard Lawrence, "the most common appearance of the lungs in broken-winded horses is a general thickening of their substance, by which their elasticity is in a great measure destroyed, and their weight specifically increased, at the same time that their capacity for receiving air is diminished." I have examined the lungs of broken-winded horses without observing this general thickening of their substance; on the contrary, they have appeared specifically lighter and larger than in the natural state. Two horses that were purchased for the purpose of making experiments, and so badly broken winded as to be useless, I particularly remarked. In the first, the lungs were unusually large, and there was evidently a considerable quantity of air in the cellular membrane, but it was not ascertained, whether this air had escaped from the air cells, or had been generated within the common cellular membrane of the lungs. The other horse was kept about a month in a field where there was no water and very little grass. When taken up, he appeared perfectly free from the disorder: he was however shot, and upon examining the lungs, they had not the slightest appearance of disease. About twelve months ago I purchased a horse completely broken-winded, he had been for a considerable time the property of a gentleman who valued him highly, but his wind became so bad as to render him useless, therefore he was sold; the purchaser finding him incapable of working after a short trial, was glad to get rid of him for a small sum. He then fell into my hands. By allowing him only a small quantity of hay, sprinkled with water, giving cold bran mashes, mixed with a moderate quantity of oats, and only a small quantity of water, taking care at the same time that he had regular but moderate exercise, his wind became gradually better, and at this time he appears perfectly free from the complaint. These cases, with several of a similar kind I have met with, seem to prove, that broken wind does not always depend on an alteration or disease in the structure of the lungs; but upon some morbid secretion in the branches of the windpipe or air cells or perhaps from their becoming emphysematous. See Emphysema.

It is stated in Rees' Cyclopædia, under the head of Broken Wind, 'that after opening more than ten broken winded horses, the lungs were uniformly found emphysematous." This complaint is generally allowed to be incurable; but it may often be alleviated, and sometimes in such a degree as to be scarcely perceptible. Constant attention, however, is necessary with regard to his food, &c which should be rather of an opening kind, such as bran mashes, with a quantity of oats proportioned to his work; green food may also be given in moderate quantity, or carrots. When ridden, his exercise should at first be moderate, and he should not be taken out immediately after feeding. I have seen small doses of diuretic medicine given daily, or every other day for a short time, so as to increase the horse's urine in a moderate degree, afford great relief; such medicines however, must not be given so as to cause and keep up excessive staling, as the kidney might thereby be injured. Horses that have but indifferent appetites either for hay or water, should be allowed green food; but in broken wind this is not often the case; more commonly they have almost constant thirst, and unless prevented by a muzzle, will eat even their litter. As far as my observation goes, this disease most commonly happens to horses that have such voracious appetites; whenever therefore this is observed, the horse should be limited in his diet; and if he shows any disposition to eat his litter, a secure muzzle must be employed. See *Cough* and *Wind.*

Bruises. In severe bruises, bleed and give a purgative, and foment the part, or apply a poultice: should matter form, it is to be treated as an abscess; but if a hard callous swelling remain, an attempt should be made to disperse it by rubbing it well with some stimulating embrocation, such as—

Soap liniment, four ounces.
Liquid ammonia, one ounce; or,
Camphor, } of each two drams.
Oil of origanum, }
Olive oil, two ounces.
Liquid ammonia, one ounce. Mix.

Should these embrocations fail, recourse must be had to a blister. See *Treatise on Veterinary Medicine.*

Bull, *to make Cows take.** A mischievous practice has been recommended by old Markham, and copied by Clatter and Skerrett, of giving for this

purpose half an ounce of Spanish flies, with grains of Paradise, &c. Surely common sense should dictate to every one, that the only safe and effectual method of accomplishing this end is to bring the animal to a perfect state of health and condition.

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* *Note by the Editor of the Farmer.*—It is said that if a bull find a cow tied fast by the head, he will take advantage of it to seize without her consent, favours which she would not have granted to his most earnest importunities. If that be the case, it is of course practicable to ensure calves at any given season We do not find this fact mentioned, however, among the curious experiments of Jacob on the flocks of Laban:

And he (Laban) said, What shall I give thee? And Jacob said, thou shalt not give me any thing: if thou wilt do this thing for me, I will again feed and keep thy flock:

I will pass through all thy flock to-day, removing from thence all the speckled and spotted cattle, and all the brown cattle among the sheep, and the spotted and speckled among the goats: and *of such* shall be my hire.

So shall my righteousness answer for me in time to come, when it shall come for my hire before thy face: every one that is not speckled and spotted among the goats, and brown among the sheep, that shall be counted stolen with me.

And Laban said, Behold, I would it might be according to thy word.

And he removed that day the he goats that were ring-straked and spotted, and all the she goats that were speckled and spotted, *and* every one that had *some* white in it, and all the brown among the sheep, and gave *them* into the hands of his sons.

And he set three days' journey betwixt himself and Jacob: and Jacob fed the rest of Laban's flocks.

¶ And Jacob took him rods of green poplar, and of the hazel and chesnut tree; and peeled white strakes in them, and made the white appear which *was* in the rods.

And he set the rods which he had peeled before the flocks in the gutters, in the watering troughs, when the flocks came to drink, that they should conceive when they came to drink.

And the flocks conceived before the rods, and brought forth cattle ring straked, speckled, and spotted.

And Jacob did separate the lambs, and set the faces of the flocks towards the ring-straked, and all the brown in the flock of Laban; and he put his own flocks by themselves, and put them not unto Laban's cattle.

And it came to pass, whensoever the stronger cattle did conceive, that Jacob laid the rods before the eyes of the cattle in the gutters, that they might conceive among the rods

But when the cattle were feeble, he put them not in: so the feeble were Laban's, and the stronger Jacob's.

And the man increased exceedingly, and had much cattle, and maid servants, and men servants, and camels and asses.

Law Intelligence.

The following case was tried about a month ago in the Marine Court, and exhibits a spirit of litigation for trifling objects, which is by no means creditable to a peaceful community. The time has been when law had many terrors, and various sacrifices have been submitted to rather than go to law, but now the most trivial trespass and dispute are carried into court, and the time of judge and jury is unprofitably expended in attending to such cases. Reformation on this head is much wanted.

Reported for the National Advocate.

MARINE COURT, September 30, 1819.

Present, MR JUSTICE DRAKE.

Streitoff *vs.* Streit

An action for taking out of plaintiff's field a heifer, and damages sustained thereon $100.

J ANTHON, counsel for plaintiff

G. WILSON, for defendant.

Anthon opened the cause to the jury, and stated that the present action was to recover from Streit, damage for taking out of Streitoff's field a heifer, which the said Streitoff claims as his.

It appears that some time since, Streit came to Streitoff's field in company with Jos. Madden, a constable, and cut the heifer loose, which was tied in Streithoff's field, and was about taking her away, when Streitoff demanded of him his authority for taking it, upon which Madden arrested Streitoff on a warrant for fifty-six cents due Streit—a scuffle ensued, and the heifer taking an active part in the affair, bucked Streit down; Streit and Madden however succeeded in bearing the heifer off—Streit then sued the plaintiff in this case before Mr. Justice Flanagan, of the ninth ward, for keeping the heifer to his damage $35. On this trial, there was examined on the part of the plaintiff, Streit, twenty one witnesses, and on the part of the defendant, Streitoff sixteen witnesses. The jury gave a verdict in favour of the plaintiff, Streit, for $6 56 cents.

The action now brought was to recover damages from Streit, for taking the heifer out of Streitoff's field.

Henry Streitoff being sworn, stated that the heifer in question belongs to his brother, the plaintiff, and that about six weeks since she strayed away and was missing about two weeks, when he found her on the road; he then cut her ear and brought her to his brother's field, and when she was there about one week, the defendant, Streit, came and took her away, and that in taking her away she bucked him down,

Cross examined by Wilson, counsel for defendant.

Q Mr. Streitoff—How do you know this heifer to be your brother's—by what marks?

A. By her having her right horn broken, a white spot on her belly, and because she was a very wild and bucking heifer.

Q Are you sure the heifer now in possession of Streit is your brother's?

A I am sure of it—I ought to know her, for I used to feed her every day, and many a time she has chased me to buck me.

The counsel in examining this witness, was very minute in his questions, which bothered the witness so much as to lead others to suppose he was intoxicated.

Q Streitoff—How many small glasses of rum have you drank to-day?

A. (*By witness putting on a recollecting mood*) I rather guess, sir, I have drank just about as many again as half.

Anthon. Properly answered.—(*Loud laugh.*)

By the Court. Mr. Wilson, it is quite unnecessary to ask the witness any such questions.

Wilson. You may retire Streitoff.

Streitoff. Thank you, sir—I'll get out as soon as I can, for I am as sober as you, or any one in court

The next witness on the part of the plaintiff was his sister, (*Mary Streitoff, a fine, large fat country girl*) who deposed that the heifer was her brother's, that *she had raised her from a calf*, and that she was a very wild heifer—had a white spot on the belly, and broken horn, &c.

Q. *By Wilson.* What was the colour of the heifer?

A. It was a brindle heifer, and looked like its mother.

Q. Was it as fat as its mother?

A. I do not think it was.

Q. How large was the white spot on the belly?

A. About the size of my hand.

Q. Where was the white spot?

A. Near the navel.

Q. Are you sure it is your brother's heifer?

A. I am sure of it.

The next witness was *George Streitoff*, the father of the plaintiff, who stated that he took the heifer from her mother at a week old, and gave her to his son—that she is a wild bucking heifer, has a white spot on her belly, and a broken horn, &c.

Cross examined by Wilson.

Q Mr Streitoff—Are you sure the heifer in question is your son's?

A. I am sure of it.

Q By what mark?

A The white spot on her belly.

Q Where was the white spot?

A. Near the navel

Q How far from the navel?

A Not quite one hundred yards, if I am not mistaken.—(Loud laugh.)

The plaintiff then produced about a dozen persons, who all testified she was his heifer—that she had a white spot on the belly, broken horn, and that she was a bucking heifer and that they had seen her very often

Anthon here rested the case on the part of the plaintiff.

Wilson, on the part of the defendant, examined twenty-five persons, who all swore that the heifer belonged to Streit, that she was a very *tame* heifer, that they never perceived any white spot on her belly, that one horn was a little broke, and they were sure she was his heifer, and that they never knew Streitoff had a heifer of that description.

Mr. Justice Flanagan, testified that the cause was tried before him, and that he saw the heifer—that it was very tame, and he did not perceive the white spot on the belly. The counsel on the part of the plaintiff was very severe with Mr. Flanagan, and as the Justice thought that he knew more about law than the counsel he got a little angry, when the counsel told him not to ride quite so high a hobby.

The Jury then informed the court, that unless they saw the heifer, they could not agree in consequence of the very contradictory evidence which had been given. It was proposed to have her brought into Court—but, apprehensive she might buck them, the court gave the jury permission to visit the heifer; they accordingly proceeded in wagons, accompanied by the parties, to view the heifer, which was at defendant's farm, about four miles from this city. While the jury were examining the heifer, the plaintiff tried to make it buck, but it would not; for lo! it was a very tame heifer, and would not injure any one—the jury returned to court and gave a verdict in favour of the defendant. The trial lasted two days, and it appears that all the old men and women were trumpeted up for 10 miles around the country as witnesses. The costs of prosecution were six times the value of the heifer; and as the counsel for the plaintiff observed that as her value was actually about $8, he had not the least doubt but that she could be valued at fifty dollars before the trial was over, for some swore she was worth, 8, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 dollars—so little did they know about the value of bucking heifers.

THE FARMER.

BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1819.

It is quite notorious that the art of cultivating the soil and of preparing its products, for consumption, in the most advantageous and profitable manner, has been pushed to much greater perfection in some states, and even in some counties of the same state than in others. It is a consciousness of this fact, which has given rise to a very useful practice amongst the correspondents of the Editor. It is that of making inquiry, when they have occasion to write to him, as to the mode of doing any particular things in those districts of country, where they are known to have

attained the greatest perfection, in the matter inquired about.

These inquiries we throw into the Farmer, which circulates through every state in the Union, and there are not wanting gentlemen of sufficient politeness and public spirit, to give the information sought for.—Thus, for example, a subscriber at Annapolis intimates, that it would be useful to ascertain and publish, for the information of southern readers, the *New England method of cultivating onions*. By presenting his intimation to our New England subscribers, we were enabled in our last paper to present the minute and well prepared account, as detailed in the obliging letter of SIMEON FRANCIS, Esq. *of New London*—Again, a correspondent at Lexington, Kentucky, desires to know the best method of *making* and *bottling* cider, and mentions some he drank many years since, made by MR HILLEN of this county. His desire was communicated through the Farmer, and accordingly in this number, he is presented, as we trust in the most clear and satisfactory manner, with every particular which is necessary to be known, in a most important and valuable branch of domestic economy, MR HILLEN, and the author of SYLVANUS, are entitled to the best thanks of our subscribers, and we have no doubt will receive them.

It is among the noble influences of agriculture that she opens the hearts of her votaries, and renders them benevolent and disingenuous They have no *secrets of trade*, and are strangers to that heart-burning jealousy, which rivalry creates among the followers of other professions They are always ready to impart, with honourable frankness and pleasure, discoveries which have been made by a long and toilsome course of labour and experiment—may such ever be the happy influence of the happiest of all vocations.

☞ We suppose it may be mentioned, as a singular fact, that, as far as we can learn there is not at this time in all Baltimore, a single gallon of LAMP OIL for sale—we will agree not to dispute whether it be *whale* oil, or *fish* oil, so the gentlemen grocers will "give us but light."

MR. SKINNER,—Col. T. Tennant has imported a quantity of cotton in the seed, from Carthagena As this is generally fine cotton, and a wish is expressed to obtain seed, for our southern states, from South America—may it not be well to attend to this parcel, as it is very rare to receive it here uncleaned.

JAMES H. M'CULLOCH.

Poor Richard's Almanac.

The way to wealth, as clearly shown in the Preface of an old Pennsylvania Almanac, intitled, Poor Richard Improved.

[Continued from page 248]

'Methinks I hear some of you say, "must a man afford himself no leisure?" I will tell thee, my friend what poor Richard says; "employ thy time well, if thou meanest to gain leisure; and since thou are not sure of a minute, throw not away an hour." Leisure is time for doing something useful; this leisure the diligent man will obtain, but the lazy man never; for "a life of leisure and a life of laziness are two things. Many, without labour, would live by their wits only, but they break for want of stock;" whereas industry gives comfort, and plenty, and respect "Fly pleasures, and they will follow you. The diligent spinner has a large shift; and now I have a sheep and a cow, every one bids me good-morrow."

'II But with our industry we must likewise be steady, settled and careful, and oversee our own affairs with our own eyes, and not trust too much to others; for, as poor Richard says,

"I never saw an oft-removed tree,
Nor yet an oft-removed family,
That throve so well as those that settled be"

And again, "three removes is as bad as a fire;" and again "keep thy shop, and thy shop will keep thee;" and again, "if you would have your business done go, if not, send." And again,

"He that by the plough would thrive,
Himself must either hold or drive."

And again, "the eye of a master will do more work than both his hands;" and again, "want of care does us more damage than want of knowledge;" and again, "not to oversee workmen, is to leave them your purse open." Trusting too much to others care is the ruin of many; for, "in the affairs of this world, men are saved, not by faith, but by the want of it;" but a man's own care is profitable; for, "if you would have a faithful servant, and one that you like, serve yourself. A little neglect may breed great mischief; for want of a nail the shoe was lost, and for want of a shoe the horse was lost, and for want of a horse the rider was lost," being overtaken and slain by the enemy; all for want of a little care about a horse-shoe nail.

'III. So much for industry my friends, and attention to one's own business: but to these we must add frugality, if we would make our industry more certainly successful. A man may, if he knows not how to save as he gets, "keep his nose all his life to the grindstone, and die not worth a groat at last. A fat kitchen maks a lean will;" and

"Many estates are spent in the getting,
Since women for tea forsook spinning and knitting,
And men for punch forsook hewing and splitting."

"If you would be wealthy, think of saving, as well as of getting. The Indies have not made Spain rich, because her outgoes are greater than her incomes."

'Away then with your expensive follies, and you will not then have so much cause to complain of hard times, heavy taxes, and chargeable families; for

"Women and wine, game and deceit,
Make the wealth small, and the want great."

And further, "what maintains one vice would bring up two children." You may think, perhaps, that a little tea, or a little punch now and then, diet a little more costly, clothes a little finer, and a little entertainment now and then, can be no great matter; but remember, "many a little makes a mickle." Beware of little expenses; "a small leak will sink a great ship," as poor Richard says; and again, "who dainties love, shall beggars prove;" and moreover, "fools make feasts, and wise men eat them"

'Here you are all got together to this sale of fineries and nick-nacks. You call them *goods*, but if you do not take care, they will prove *evils* to some of you. You expect they will be sold cheap, and perhaps they may, for less than they cost; but if you have no occasion for them, they must be dear to you. Remember what poor Richard says, "buy what thou hast no need of, and ere long thou shalt sell thy necessaries." And again, "at a great penny-worth pause a while." He means, that perhaps the cheapness is apparent only and not real; or the bargain, by straitening thee in thy business, may do thee more harm than good. For in another place he says, "many have been ruined by buying good penny-worths." Again, "it is foolish to lay out money in a purchase of repentance;" and yet this folly is practised every day at auctions, for want of minding the almanac. Many a one, for the sake of finery on the back, have gone with a hungry belly, and half starved their families; "silks and satins, scarlet and velvets, put out the kitchen fire," as poor Richard says. These are not the necessaries of life, they can scarcely be called the conveniences; and yet, only because they look pretty, how many want to have them? By these and other extravagancies, the genteel are reduced to poverty, and forced to borrow of those whom they formerly despised, but who, through industry and frugality, have maintained their standing; in which case it appears plainly, that "a ploughman on his legs is higher than a gentleman on his knees," as poor Richard says. Perhaps they have had a small estate left them, which they knew not the getting of; they think "it is day, and it will never be night;" that a little to be spent out of so much is not worth minding; but "always taking out of the meal-tub, and never putting in, soon comes to the bottom," as poor Richard says: and then, "when the well is dry, they know the worth of water." But this they might have known before, if they had taken his advice: "if you would know the value of money, go and try to borrow some; for "he that goes a borrowing goes a sorrowing," as poor Richard says; and indeed so does he that lends to such people, when he goes to get it again. Poor Dick further advises, and says,

"Fond pride of dress is sure a curse,
Ere fancy you consult, consult your purse,"

And again, "pride is as loud a beggar as want, and a great deal more saucy." When you have bought one fine thing, you must buy ten more, that your appearance may be all of a piece; but poor Dick says, "it is easier to suppress the first desire than to satisfy all that follow it;" and it is as truly folly for the poor to ape the rich, as for the frog to swell in order to equal the ox.

'Vessels large may venture more,
But little boats should keep near shore."

It is, however, a folly soon punished; for, as poor Richard says, "pride that dines on vanity, sups on contempt; pride breakfasted with plenty, dined with poverty, and supped with infamy" And, after all, of what use is this pride of appearance, for which so much is risked, so much suffered? It cannot promote health, nor ease pain: it makes no increase of merit in the person; it creates envy, it hastens misfortune.

[TO BE CONTINUED]

THE CANAL—AN EXTRACT.

"——Far in the desert bound I saw
Art's proudest triumph over Nature's law;
Where, distant shores and oceans to combine,
Her daring hand had traced a liquid line,
Uniting lakes, around whose verges rise
Mountains, which hide their heads in misty skies;
Each bound within such adamantine chain,
For ages lash'd its lonely shores in vain;
Till, through their barriers, skill and labour led
The willing waves a long and level bed.
Thus, even in her wildest fastness, man
Subdues his step-dame Nature's churlish plan."

Adjt. & Insp. General's Office,
October 27, 1819.

Notice.

Under the arrangement of the Departments of State, Treasury, War and Navy, published the 27th of May, 1819—"That all claimants shall have their business attended to, by transmitting their papers, without employing agents in this city," I have uniformly and promptly delivered over to the proper officer all papers which have been enclosed to me. This course I shall continue cheerfully to pursue; but it is impossible to acknowledge the receipt of all such papers, and I do not feel myself liable to account for any vouchers or communications which do not belong to the files of this office.

I give this notice, as a general answer to the many correspondents who avail themselves of my services in this way.

D. PARKER,
Adjutant and Inspector General.

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